

Baker—Hall

Alissa Alfonso

Born in 1970 in Miami, FL

Lives and works in Miami, FL.

Alissa Alfonso's artistic practice revolves around the transformation of the past into a dialogue with the future, exemplifying a profound reverence for the natural world. Embracing diverse roles—artist, mother, collector, designer—Alfonso's work reflects her multifaceted identity and her commitment to both environmental preservation and community engagement.

Operating from her home studio nestled within a 1937 art deco house in Hollywood, Florida, Alfonso's creative process is deeply intertwined with her surroundings. Utilizing repurposed, hand-dyed fabrics, she crafts botanical soft sculptures reminiscent of healing plants, inviting viewers to contemplate the intrinsic connection between humanity and nature.

Alfonso's artistic vision extends beyond the confines of her studio, manifesting in initiatives such as "Off the Canvas," a pioneering arts program she founded for Broward County Schools. By championing non-traditional mediums and emphasizing the omnipresence of art in everyday life, Alfonso empowers young minds to explore their creative potential while fostering a deeper appreciation for sustainability.

Her current endeavors span a spectrum of mediums and concepts, from large-scale fabric murals to functional lighting inspired by organic forms. While her work poignantly acknowledges the fragility of nature in the face of environmental change, it resounds with a message of hope, encapsulating the enduring beauty and resilience of the natural world.

Alissa Alfonso's artistic practice weaves together threads of memory, community, and environmental stewardship to create a tapestry that speaks to both the present moment and the possibilities of the future.

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Education

1992 BFA Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah GA

Selected Exhibitions

2024 Upcoming Solo Exhibition, Baker—Hall, Miami, FL

2023 Faena, Tierra Santa- Miami Beach, FL (ongoing)
Alanna Miller Gallery, Earth Laughs in Flowers- New York, NY
Bridge Initiative, Biscayne, The Kampong Institute - Miami, FL
Spring/Break Art Show - New York, NY
KDR305, Florida Room No. 2: Biscayne Bay Edition- Hialeah, FL
Club Gallery, Bloom- Miami, FL
Tenth Street Gallery, Flora: The Impermanence of Beauty- Sarasota, FL

2022 The Camp Gallery, A Room of One's Own- Miami, FL
Club Gallery, Variable Elements, Miami FL
Elephant Gallery, The Leftovers Show, Nashville TN
Women Pulling the Threads of Social Discourse - MOCA, Westport, CT
Superfine Fair - Miami Beach, FL
The Frank, Elemental - Terra, Tide, & Time -Pembroke Pines, FL

2021 SET/RISE, Club Gallery - Miami, FL
The Camp Gallery - Threads of Resilience , Miami FL
Every Woman Biennial, London UK
Contra/Common- "Soft"- Bee Cave, TX

2020 CICA Museum- Contemporary Landscape 2020-Gyeonggi-do, Korea
Oolite Arts- Materialize - Miami Beach, FL
The Camp Gallery & FAMA Flags - Miami, FL
Wassaic Project- "Now, more than ever"- Wassaic, NY
NSU Art Museum- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Elephant Gallery "Smoke Show" - Nashville, TN
IKT Curatorial Alissa Alfonso "Nature's Medicine", Dimensions Variable
Miami, FL

Baker—Hall

- 2018** Girls Club “BarkWalk” - Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Marine Environmental Center “Jellyfish Installation” - Hollywood Beach, FL
Art and Cultural Center “Exposed” - Hollywood, FL
“Cushvator” Mana Contemporary 777 International Mall, Miami, FL
- 2017** “Upcycled Nature” Miami Dade Public Library - Miami, FL
Art and Cultural Center “Plush” - Hollywood, FL
- 2016** Superfine Art Fair Miami Art Week - Miami, FL
Pinta Miami “Mi Cuna” Miami Art Week - Miami, FL
La Mano Femminile - Hollywood, FL
Miami Makers Faire – Miami, FL
Humane Society Broward County Adoption Collaboration-Dania, FL
- 2015** Odd Duck Indie Bazaar, Instructional Workshop, Hollywood, FL
Humane Society Broward County Adoption Collaboration- Dania, FL
- 2014** Miami Mini Maker Faire, Wynwood Warehouse, Miami/Wynwood, FL
Stitch Rock, Historic Gymnasium, Delray Beach, FL
Girls Club, Art Fallout, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 2013** Stitch Rock, Historic Gymnasium, Delray Beach, FL
Miami Mini Maker Faire, The LAB Miami, Miami/Wynwood, FL
Art and Culture Center of Hollywood Sixth ALL-Media Juried Biennial, Hollywood, FL
- 2012** Made in Florida, Florida Craftsman Juried Exhibit, Lighthouse ArtCenter, Tequesta, FL (Group Exhibit)
- 2011** Basel Exhibition, Alma Fine Art Gallery, Wynwood FL (Group Exhibit)
World and Eye Gallery, FAT Village, Fort Lauderdale FL (Group Exhibit)
Stitch Rock, Historic Gymnasium, Delray Beach, FL
Clay Fiber Wood, Florida Craftsmen, BC Downtown Center Arts Space, Fort Lauderdale FL (Group Exhibit)

Baker—Hall

Melissa Wallen

Born in 1987 in Voorhees, NJ

Lives and works in Miami, FL

Melissa Wallen draws inspiration from a diverse array of sources such as personal snapshots, poetry, music, and art history, forming images which abstract through the malleable nature of memory and the expressive qualities of oil paint. The result is an interplay of elements that coalesce to form spaces rich with fragmentation. Gesture and hue serve as guideposts through emotional landscapes which are built on the convergence of these disparate influences, channeled through the transformative power of painting.

Born in New Jersey, Wallen moved to Miami in 2006. After receiving her BFA in Painting and Fibers at Florida International University, she joined the staff of the de la Cruz Collection, opening the private collection of Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz to the public in Miami's Design District in 2009. Most recently, she held the position of Director until the collection's closure in 2024. In 2022, she was recognized as a Knight Arts Champion by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for her ongoing contributions and leadership within Miami's art community.

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Education

2010 BFA Florida International University

Solo Exhibitions

2024 *Between Sleep and Sky*, Baker—Hall, Miami, FL

2023 *Worlds Behind You*, Laundromat Art Space, Miami, FL

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 Upcoming — NADA Miami, Alissa Alfonso & Melissa Wallen, Miami, FL

House in Motion, de la Cruz Collection, Miami, FL

People, Places, Things, online presentation V Projects, New York, NY

2023 Seeing Double, Clandestina | Miami, FL

2022 The BluPrnt, Bridge Red Space | Miami, FL

2011 Xerox as a Verb, Tomm El-Saieh Galley | Miami, FL

2010 Private Investigations: A Participatory Mystery of Found Photography,

Mastodon Mesa Gallery | Hollywood, CA

Chrome Yellow, The Frost Art Museum | Miami, FL

Off Leash, Nina Torres Gallery | Miami, FL

2009 Future Shock!, Black Mangrove Collective | Miami, FL

10 x 10, Site-Specific Performance | West Palm Beach, FL

2008 Feminazi, Black Mangrove Collective | La Cueva | Miami, FL

Swarm, Black Mangrove Collective | Miami, FL

Sleepless Nights, Shifting Light, Miami Beach Botanical Gardens |

Miami, FL

Au, Go! Go!, Studio 1415 | Miami, FL

5054, Florida International University, Painting Studio | Miami, FL

2007 Your Show, Florida International University, Painting Studio | Miami, FL